

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
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AMEMBASSY PARIS
USNMR SHAPE BEL
USCINCEUR AIHINGEN GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
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UMSISSION USUN NEW YORK 6731
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C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 1834

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC USCINCEUR FOR POLAD USDOCOSOUTH FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, ASEC, CY
SUBJECT: KYPRIANOU BACKS OFF CONSPIRACY CHARGES

REF: (A) NICOSIA 1818 (B) NICOSIA 1809

1. PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU HAS PUBLICLY DRAWN BACK IN PAST
FEW DAYS FROM SOME OF CHARGES AND IMPLICATIONS OF ALLEGED
SUBVERSIVE CONSPIRACY. GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ISSUED
STATEMENT MORNING JULY 24 THAT TERMINATION OF TASSOS
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PAPADOPOULOS' SERVICES AS GREEK CYPRIOT NEGOTIATOR HAD NO
CONNECTION WITH CONSPIRACY AGAINST THE STATE. SPOKES-
MAN SIAD THERE WAS NO FACT CONNECTING PAPADOPOULOS WITH
CONSPIRACY. (GOC HAD NOT DIRECTLY ASSUCED PAPADOPOULOS
OF BEING ONE OF CONSPIRATORS, BUT LATTER HAD
PUBLICLY CHARGED THAT GOVERNMENT WAS BEHIND RUMOR
CAMPAIGN LINKING HIM WITH CONSPIRACY AND CHALLENGED

AUTHORITIES TO SETTLE MATTER IN COURT.)

2. MEANWHILE, FOREIGN MINISTER ROLANDIS, VISITING FRG FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER IN BONN, EXPLAINED IN JOINT COMMUNIQUE RELEASED JULY 23 THAT GOC HAD "NOT THE SLIGHTEST ACCUSATION" AGAINST FRG OR AGAINST ANY GERMAN POLITICIAN, INCLUDING LEADER JOSEF STRAUSS. (AS IN CASE OF PAPADOPOULOS, GOC HAD NOT PUBLICLY ACCUSED STRAUSS OF INVOLVEMENT IN CONSPIRACY BUT HAD INSTIGATED PRESS STORIES TO THAT EFFECT.) EARLIER, ON JULY 21, PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU SENT TELEGRAMS TO FRG CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT AND PRESIDENT SCHEEL ASSURING THEM THAT GOC HAD NO SUSPICIAON THAT EITHER FRG OR ITS EMBASSY IN NICOSIA WERE INVOLVED IN CONSPIRACY. PRESIDENT CALLED FOR CONTINUATION OF GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

3. RETURNING TO SUBJECT OF CONSPIRACY AT MIDDAY, JULY 24, PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU ISSUED STATEMENT IN HIS OWN NAME PUTTING AN END TO ALL PUBLIC DISCLOSURES BY GOC ABOUT CONSPIRACY UNTIL ALL EVIDENCE AND INFORMATION COULD BE CROSS-CHECKED AND VERIFIED. PRESIDENT CALLED FOR UNITY AMONG THE PEOPLE AND ASKED PRESS TO COOPERATE BUT WELCOMED CRITICISM IN GOOD FAITH.

4. ABOVE DEVELOPMENTS TOOK PLACE AGAINST BACKGROUND OF CONFIDENTIAL

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CONTINUING CRITICISM FROM RIGHT WIND CIRCLES OF KYPRIANOU'S INABILITY TO PRODUCE CONVINCING EVIDENCE OF CONSPIRACY. NEWSPAPERS FAVORABLE TO PAPADOPOULOS AND DEMOCRATIC RALLY LEADER GLAFCOS CLERIDES HAVE CONSISTANTLY CHARGED THAT KYPRIANOU CONCOCTED CONSPIRACY STORY TO SILENCE DOMESTIC OPPOSITION AND IN PROCESS WAS ENGAGING IN CHARACTER ASSASSINATION. PRO-CLERIDES WEEKLY ALITHIA REPORTED JULY 24 THAT POLICE AUTHORITIES HAD ATTEMPTED TO BRIBE RIGHT-WING POLITICAL PRISONERS, THROUGH PROMISES OF REDUCED SENTENCES, TO IMPLICATE CLERIDES AND PAPADOPOULOS IN CONSPIRACY. EFFORT REPORTEDLY FAILED, BUT CLERIDES IS SAID TO HAVE DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE OF IT AND SUGGESTION IS THAT HE WILL REVEAL IT.

5. COMMENT. PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU APPARENTLY BECAME ALARMED AT REPERCUSSIONS HIS WIDE-RANGING CHARGES WERE HAVING FOR HIS OWN CREDIBILITY AND FOR RELATIONS WITH WEST GERMANY. HIS DECISION TO END FURTHER PUBLIC DISCLOSURES ABOUT ALLEGED CONSPIRACY INDICATES THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO PLAY DOWN THE ISSUE AND SHIFT PUBPIC ATTENTION ELSEWHERE. EVEN IF HE IS ABLE TO DO SO, WE BELIEVE

HIS CREDIBILITY WILL HAVE SUFFERED A SEVERE BLOW.
STONE

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